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Letter dated 20 January 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 19 January 1998, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hüseyin E. ÇELEM
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Letter dated 19 January 1998 from Mr. Aytuğ Plümer addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letters dated 5 and 14 January 1998 addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative at the United Nations, which contain allegations regarding the "violation of the national airspace of the Republic" (A/52/761-S/1998/12 and A/52/767-S/1998/33).

I would like to recall that similar charges of so-called "airspace violations" rejected in toto in our successive communications addressed to you, most recently in my letter dated 4 December 1997 (A/52/712-S/1997/961, annex). Since the present Greek Cypriot allegations are no different from or more credible than those previously made, they do not merit a detailed reply. I wish to reiterate briefly, however, that flights within the airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and consent of the appropriate authorities of the State, over which the usurper Greek Cypriot regime in the South has no jurisdiction or right of say whatsoever.

The Greek Cypriot side is pursuing its relentless campaign of propaganda aimed at providing a smokescreen for its lack of political will to settle the Cyprus issue. The Greek Cypriot side, which has never come to terms with the concept of power-sharing with the Turkish Cypriot side on the basis of equality, has thus far paid lip-service to your mission of good offices so long as the framework has essentially not challenged the Greek Cypriot pretence that they are the "Government" and the Turkish Cypriot side is a mere "community". Since the Luxembourg decision of the European Union (EU), taken last month has unfortunately upheld this false premise, the parameters for a settlement of the Cyprus question have been severely undermined, as the Greek Cypriot side is able to proceed with its unilateral drive towards membership of EU in the name of "Cyprus", in total contravention of the 1960 Agreements on Cyprus and the internal and external balances established by those Agreements.

Another basic objective of the Greek Cypriot administration in making these allegations is to divert attention from its policy of escalation and tension on the island. It is noteworthy, in this context, that the Greek Cypriot leader, Mr. Glafcos Clerides, has recently announced that the new Paphos military airbase in South Cyprus would be ready for delivery on 24 January 1998 for use by the Greek air force as part of the "joint defence doctrine" with Greece (Greek Cypriot daily, The Cyprus Mail, of 9 January 1998). This new and dangerous development shows that the offensive launched by the Greek-Greek Cypriot front in 1963 in order to destroy the 1960 Agreements on Cyprus, and the internal and external balances, is still continuing.

It is high time that all those interested in a peaceful settlement of the Cyprus question acknowledge the realities on the island and refrain from assisting the Greek Cypriots in upholding the myth that they are the sole, legitimate "Government" and have sovereignty over the whole island.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Aytuğ PLÜMER
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus